



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: JP Tremblay
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
1 December 2010

CALVET ANNOUNCES 2010 WOMEN VETERAN OF THE YEAR

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) is pleased to announce that Lucy Sammons of San Ramon and Patricia Jackson-Kelley of Los Angeles have been selected to receive the 2010 Women Veteran of the Year Award.

Since the 2009 CalVet Women Veterans Conference, the department has recognized two women veterans, one from Northern and one from Southern California, during its annual Women Veterans Conference who have exhibited exemplary military service, as a veteran and in the community.

"I was so honored to present the Woman Veteran of the Year award to Lucy Sammons and Patricia Jackson-Kelley. They are both truly worthy of such recognition based upon their service to our country and their vast contributions to their community and service to veterans. We received more than 40 nominations this year and it became a difficult decision for the selection committee due to the phenomenal pool of distinguished women veterans with extremely impressive achievements. Several of the nominees who attended the third annual CalVet Women Veterans Conference in Clovis last week were recognized and informed that they can also be considered for next year's award. As Deputy Secretary for Women and Minority Veterans and a Viet Nam Era veteran, I feel that this award process speaks volumes about the courageous women veterans who are so deserving of being recognized and honored for their service to our nation," said Deputy Secretary for Women and Minority Veterans Barbara Ward.

The 2010 Women Veteran of the Year award winners are as follows:

Captain Lucy Sammons of San Ramon was selected as the northern California Women Veteran of the Year. Sammons has had a long and distinguished Naval career and has dedicated significant time to working for women, the military and veterans. She has been the recipient of a multitude of military honors including: the Meritorious Service Medal for the creation and as the director of the nationally recognized "Reserve Women's Health Center" at the Naval Hospital at Oakland and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal on numerous occasions. Sammons professional career has included roles as a clinician, administrator, researcher, academician, health care executive, policy maker and advocate. She served as an advisor and consultant to shape policies and provide expert guidance to expand and monitor access to women's health services including screening, obstetric and gynecologic services and has made significant contributions they studies of childbearing families, domestic abuse and obstetric care guidelines. Sammons community involvement has earned the Department of Defense Outstanding Voluntary Service Medal consecutively each period since it was authorized, with beneficiaries ranging from youth development programs and public education, to community and regional disaster preparedness, to underserved women populations and veterans advocacy and education.

-More-

Lieutenant Colonel Patricia Jackson-Kelley was selected as the southern California Women Veteran of the Year. Jackson-Kelley is a member of a multi-generational military family who served in the Army and Air Force for over 25 years. She has received a number of military honors and awards including: the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Clusters; the National Defense Service Ribbon; the Army Achievement Service Ribbon; the Air Force Outstanding Unity Award; Air Force Commendation Medal; and the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon. Jackson-Kelley has been a selfless advocate for soldiers, veterans and their families throughout her military career. She was involved with the Jackie Robinson Post 252 for over 20 years and a multitude of local, state and federal leadership positions. Most recently she was appointed to the Advisory Board for Military Women in Need and is the Employee Support Representative for her area.

CalVet also wishes to congratulate the nominees. They too have demonstrated a record of service to women veterans in California and are deserving of recognition for their hard work for women veterans.

The nominees for the Northern California region included:

Elisa Bernal	Cheryl Brandt
Delphine Foster-Metcalf	Cynthia Lortie
Marcella McCormack	Luzdelalba Nakamura
Betty Jean Stallings	Andrea Summerlin
Caroline Tanaka	

The nominees for the Southern California region included:

Bonnie Balthrop	Martha Barnett
Yvonne Boyce	Josephine Carillo
Amy Rae-Contreras	Azie Deye
Ada Lou Duacsek	Ronne Froman
Mary Guest	Karen Kraus
Brenda Menjivar	Tanya McMichael
Gayle Morino	Laura Owen
Darcy Pavich	Irene Peralta
Lynne Pine	Ann Reeder

The department is very proud of the overall success of the 2010 CalVet Women Veteran Conference and extraordinary nominees and award winners. Please view the Women and Minority Veterans section of the departmental website and the CalVet Newsletter for updates on the 2011 conference.

###